

MEDIA RELEASE

18 JULY 2013

Shire of Ashburton Councillors reconvened for their first Ordinary Meeting yesterday after a six month suspension to focus on governance training and the responsibilities and functions of a Council following a probity audit.

Local Government Minister Tony Simpson attended the meeting along with the mentoring panel, which has been established to provide advice and support to Council and senior staff for the next six months.

Mr Simpson strongly encouraged the Council to refocus on their roles and fulfil them to the standard expected by local communities.

“The past few months have seen many positive changes occur within the Shire of Ashburton,” Mr Simpson said. “We’ve seen training for Councillors and the appointment of a monitoring and mentoring panel.”

Training was conducted through the Australian Institute of Company Directors and the WA Local Government Association.

“The training was a great opportunity for Councillors to refocus on the role and structure of local government, meeting processes, land use planning and ethical responsibilities,” Mr Simpson said.

The Council was suspended for six months in December 2012 and Commissioner Ronald Yuryevich appointed to run the Council.

Councillors were reinstated on 12 June 2013, and a mentoring panel set up to help Council improve its decision-making and meeting processes, provide advice to elected members and senior staff, and monitor Council business.

Panel members include Cr Karen Chappel, deputy president of the Local Government Advisory Board and Shire President of Morawa; Don Burnett, CEO of Kalgoorlie-Boulder Shire; and Jenni Law from the Department of Local Government.

Mr Simpson said the imminent appointment of a permanent CEO provided an ideal opportunity for Council and the Executive to move forward on a united front, to work together to provide the leadership and good governance expected and deserved by local communities.

“I strongly encourage the Councillors to take full advantage of this fresh opportunity and I look forward to receiving further positive reports of their progress,” he said.



Local Government Minister Tony Simpson with the Shire of Ashburton Councillors

(L-R) Cr Fernandez, Cr Eyre, Cr Wright, Cr Dias, Cr Thomas, Minister Tony Simpson, Shire President Kerry White, Cr Foster, Cr Shields, Deputy Shire President, Cr Rumble.

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IMAGES available to download at www.ashburton.wa.gov.au

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